

IN THE CLAIMS:

Amend claims 7-8 and add new claims 13-15 as shown in the following listing of claims, which replaces all previous listings and versions of claims.

1.-6. (canceled)

7. (currently amended) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera comprising:

a group of objective lenses;

an imaging optical system having an optical path and including the group of objective lenses and an imaging element disposed along the optical path at a position at which an image of a subject is formed by the group of objective lenses;

optical-path-splitting means ~~disposed on~~ insertable into the optical path of the imaging optical system between the group of objective lenses and the imaging element ~~so as to~~ be to enable observing of the subject image and retractable from the optical path of the imaging optical system during imaging of the subject image on the imaging element; and

an observation optical system for observing an optical image of the subject via the optical-path-splitting means;

wherein the optical-path-splitting means includes a first flat surface that reflects the subject image toward the observation optical system and a second flat surface through which the subject image is transmitted to fall incident on the imaging element, the second surface being inclined relative to the first surface so as to correct an image-formation positional deviation in the direction crossing the imaging optical axis arising when the optical-path-splitting means is inserted into the optical path of the imaging optical system.

8. (currently amended) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 7; further comprising imaging position correction means including an optical element insertable into the optical path of the imaging optical system ~~to correct for correcting~~ an image-formation positional deviation along the imaging optical axis arising when the optical-path-splitting means is retracted from the optical path of the imaging optical system during imaging.

9. (previously presented) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 8; wherein the optical element comprises a plane glass element having a thickness effective to correct the image-formation positional deviation along the imaging optical axis.

10. (previously presented) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 9; wherein the plane glass element is inserted perpendicularly to the optical path of the imaging optical system.

11. (previously presented) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 8; wherein the imaging position correction means controls retraction of the optical-path-splitting means and insertion of the optical element by means of a guide lever member that supports the optical-path-splitting means on one end and the optical element on another end.

12. (previously presented) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 7; wherein the optical-path-splitting means is a half-mirror.

13. (new) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 8; including means for mounting the optical-path-splitting means and the imaging position correction means to undergo movement as a unit.

14. (new) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 13; wherein the means for mounting includes a pivotal lever having a first lever arm to which the optical-path-splitting means is connected and a second lever arm to which the imaging position correction means is connected.

15. (new) A terrestrial telescope with a digital camera according to claim 7; wherein the optical-path-splitting means comprises a wedge-shaped half mirror.